

Petersburg schools chief is leaving

Parrish to resign on June 30 for new job; served system 5 years

From staff reports

The superintendent of Petersburg city schools will resign June 30 after two years in the top post.

Alvera J. Parrish is leaving for another job but said Saturday she could not yet disclose where she will be going.

Parrish submitted her resignation to the school board in a closed meeting Wednesday night, said board Chairman Kenneth L. Pritchett.

He said she has been offered the position of superintendent in another locality in Virginia, but could not give further details of her plans.

Parrish was given a four-year contract in June 2010 after the retirement of James M. Victory, who had hired her as assistant superintendent for instruction in 2007.

Pritchett said Parrish has served five years with Petersburg schools and built a team that will carry on the progress the system has made under her leadership.

"We believe it will not be a setback," he said.

Petersburg has struggled to raise its academic achievements, with some success. Last fall, six of the district's seven schools attained some level of accreditation. But Peabody Middle School was denied accreditation for the sixth straight year.

Pritchett said the board will meet within two weeks to begin the search for her successor. He said the board "understood she could not resist" the opportunity she was offered.